

# The Watauga Democrat.

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NO 47.

## Distinguished Educator Visits Watauga.

Editor Democrat: Having recently returned from my vacation and having spent part of my time in Watauga County, North Carolina, I want to say a few words thru your paper about this one of the greatest spots in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. I desire to say this, because I was so very agreeably surprised with what I saw.

People who read about this Southern Appalachian country of ours usually get a wrong impression of it, and especially of Western North Carolina and extreme Eastern Tennessee. Now I should like to speak of a few of the many good things I saw around Reece, the Beaver Dams section, Sugar Grove, Zionville the Cove Creek Section.

All thru these sections one sees most all the people living in fine houses for the country, above the average; their farms are well fenced and well kept; large herds of cattle grazing on the many hills where you see the grass to their knees, for the grass certainly does grow in this country. Much of the land, in fact most of it, is steep, but it is rich. Much of the land I saw on top of the hills there is as rich as much of our bottom land here, and their land does not wash like our land here on the hillsides.

This is a great apple country. The apples grow there without very much attention and the flavor of the fruit far surpasses much of that shipped to us from the Pacific slope. This ought to say much to all us mountain folk here in the hills of East Tennessee and West North Carolina that if we would just give our orchards as much time, or half as much for that matter, as the apple grower of the west gives to his fruit we could grow the finest fruit that was ever produced. Then build roads to market, for this is one of our chief obstacles to rapid progress. The greatest need of the people in Watauga county, N. C. is good roads to every section of the county, for they certainly have the resources. They have the timber, the land, the fruit, the cattle, and above all the purest and best of the Anglo-Saxon race live there nestled in those hills. Of course much of this county, like Eastern Tennessee, cannot be developed until good roads and railways are built so the people can get in and out more easily. Of course parts of the county are being favored by pike road and the people are to be congratulated and I am sure they will extend the road to all sections before they stop. Recently Boone, the county seat, was connected by rail with Johnson City, Tenn. which shows the right steps are being taken and it will not be long until one can ride in an automobile on pike road from here to Boone by way of Bristol, Va.

The trip from here to Boone, via Bristol, Mountain City and Trade, Tenn., will not be surpassed east of the Rockies for scenery. The mountains all around towering more than five thousand feet present all the beauty and grandeur that nature can give, to say nothing of the gorges and valleys and streams one sees.

Now, if you want to get where it is really cool in the heat of summer, go to these mountains. I have never seen anything near by to equal it. If it had not been August, I would have made certain that it was going to frost several nights while I was there. One always has to cover at night, and there is no need for ice in these mountains. The spring wa-

## Walt Mason Converted by the Salvation Army.

Walt Mason, one of our best beloved poets, has been converted by the Salvation Army workers in Los Angeles, California, and in his characteristic style has written the following poem about his conversion:

"One night while walking down the street, my mind on pleasure bent—I sought the pleasures of the world, but my soul was not content—I saw the bright lights of the theatre; they beckoned me to come, as did the music and the song in the place where they sold rum. I stepped into a pool hall and found a vacant chair, and thought that I would rest a bit and drive away dull care; but my mind is still persisted in turning memory sod, reminding me of the time when I was winning souls for God. I couldn't find the rest and peace, satisfaction would not come, when suddenly I heard the sound of the good old army drum. Its voice it called me closer, and I found an open air, and once more I could see myself kneeling there in prayer. For I had been a soldier, and known the Saviors smile, but now I was a deserter—a sinner weak and vile. But in spite of all my meanness, I went to the hall that night. My intentions they were proper—I meant to do the right. But a deserter is a coward—always ready with some excuse—or perhaps a careless person, and wonders, what's the use? But the prayers of God's faithful people won my hard and stony heart, and at the front that night I made another start. And today, praise God!—I'm fighting; Jesus took me back, and now once more I'm traveling in the good old Calvary track."

ter is as cold as any should want. You can have lemonade any time, provided, of course, you get the lemons somewhere, as THEY do not grow there.

The tourist need not want for somewhere to go and something to see for the mountains, if he likes mountain "hiking", beckon to him. The Rich Mountain with its "Tater Hill" looks down upon you from 5,363 feet above. Blowing Rock, Grand Father, and others are not very far away and from these great elevations the grandest scenery imaginable is spread out before you.

Speaking again about the market for this section: As it is, Tennessee is getting most, practically all, of the trade from the county, tho the roads are exceeding rough, thousands and thousands of feet of lumber comes across Stone Mountain into Tennessee to be shipped, but Watauga county is waking up and she will turn trade some of these days by the good system of roads she is inaugurating. Why not Tennessee assist in putting a first class road across Stone Mountain, so that trade will continue to come into our commonwealth?

One of the chief industries of Watauga county is the manufacture of cheese, there being eleven factories already established, turning out about 40,000 pounds each month. Of course this means cows, and cows means improved land means good livers. Their cattle are not scrubs, either, they are in many cases, pure bred; the Holstein being a favorite in many cases.

The people are the most hospitable and always give a stranger a hearty welcome, as is true of all the Southern Appalachian folk.

JUDD ACUFF.

Teacher Mathematics Central High School, Knox Co. Tenn.

## The Three Forks Association.

By R. M. B.

Three fourths of the people of Watauga are Baptists. The denomination has no fewer than forty churches and nearly as many licensed preachers in the county. It owes its supremacy in numbers, perhaps, to the appeal of its democratic organization to the early settlers in the mountains rather than to any aggressiveness in recent years. It numbers among its members many of the most substantial and progressive citizens of the county; it includes also the great mass who drift with the crowd in creed as in other things. Its leading preachers have been men of limited education, self-made men. As a denomination the Baptists have been conservative—little prone to go after strange gods, slow to adopt new ideas or new methods.

But a change is at hand. The Three Forks Association held its annual meeting at Mabel last week. This association is composed of thirty-six, I believe, of the Baptist churches of the county. Within the last few years a group of young men—laymen—have become prominent in its councils. They saw certain things that they thought needed doing, and with the courage—or if you please, the rashness—of youth, they set about doing them. They won their first point last year when they instructed the executive committee of the association to secure an evangelist or field man—I am not sure what they call him—to work throughout the association. This year they returned with larger plans. And they secured for them the approval of the association. In fact from the moment they elected their candidate for moderator to the hour of adjournment they were in control. A few of the older leaders joined them heartily. The others with the masses followed, somewhat hesitatingly, but they followed. There were moments when a break seemed imminent, but by skillful leadership and vehement earnestness the progressive group bore their more hesitant brethren forward with them. Today, measured by the ordinary standards of church advancement, the Baptists have by far the most progressive and the most aggressive program of any denomination in the county.

They have already secured as their field man a good organizer and a tireless worker Rev. M. A. Adams. They have under way a plan for the forming of "fields" composed of two or three churches with a pastor who will give his whole time to the group. They are making definite arrangements for a series of institutes to be held in the various churches for the training of Sunday School workers. These institutes will be held by the best talent from the ranks of the Southern Baptists.

I have said that the younger men were in control; but they did not hold the center of the stage all the time. The report on temperance provoked an interesting discussion. The tobacco habit was strongly condemned in a discussion led by old men, several of whom confessed they were tobacco users. The weed found but one defender, or, rather, apologist. One had visions of the time when, if a certain prominent candidate for Governor, for instance, should start to an association, he might be met on the outskirts of the crowd by the sheriff and firmly led away in the other direction because he had a quid in his mouth. These are the happenings of the first day.

The second was to be the big

## Mrs. John Cook.

Mrs. Mary Tanner Cook, the subject of this sketch, was born Sept. 16, 1860, and departed this life Aug. 12, 1919, age 58 years, 10 months and 26 days. She was married to John D. Cook in 1878, with whom she lived happily for 41 years. She leaves a husband, seven sons and four daughters to mourn her loss.

A chair is vacant around the family hearth stone; her seat at church and Sunday School is no longer filled. But she is not gone forever. She has only passed over the river of death into the realms of eternal rest. She professed faith in Christ and joined the Baptist church in 1877 and lived a faithful member until her death. She was ever ready to aid and assist in any worthy cause. She was a leader in Sunday School work and devoted a great deal of her time instructing children, and they loved her dearly. She was ever ready to go to the assistance of a sick or needy friend, and no night was too dark for her to go when the call came.

Husband, children and friends, let us but remember that which we are sorely grieved and miss her presence, oh, so much, it will be but a short time until we shall follow and if we are faithful to Christ we shall join her in that home eternal in the heavens, not made with hands.

These are some of her last words, as remembered by her children: "Be good boys and girls. Meet me in heaven. Be loving brothers and sisters, as you always have been. So live that when God calls you home there will be a united family in heaven." Her work on earth is ended; her troubles and sufferings are ended; she has gone to her eternal reward.

I. S. WATSON,  
J. J. WELLSBORN,  
R. W. GREENE, Com.  
For Stony Fork S. S.

day. It wasn't. The discussion centered around the great seventy-five million dollar campaign. The basis of the discussion was the reports on the various phases of missions and on education. Rev. M. A. Adams led the discussion, and if any man can raise Watauga's part of that fund, he will do it. The speeches on this day were full of earnestness. There were repeated references to new world problems. But if the speakers had any very definite conception as to what these world problems are, or as to just what the church may do toward solving these problems, they failed to put such conception into words. They were apparently unaware of the significance of the economic revolution now spreading over the world.

But not everything can be done at once. The leaders have been busy with the organization of their forces. By next year they will have perfected their plans; they will have put over big drive and we may confidently expect the same group of leaders to present to the association at Cap Creek a program of applied Christianity in advance of any thing the country has ever known.

You can do some things next week, but some you cannot.

So don't wait, act now!

Insure your house before it burns.

Insure your health before you get sick.

Insure your life before you die for then it is everlastingly to late.

I sell the best policies at universal rates.

GEO. F. BLAIR,  
Blowing Rock, N. C.

## THE WEEK.

American troops have been withdrawn from Mexico. The withdrawal is purely military it is said. Four bandits are reported to have been killed by the Americans, and nine others captured by Mexican troops. Jesus Rentina, the bandit leader, is said to have been shot and killed by Lieutenant Cooper, one of the aviators captured by the bandits.

The refusal of the government of the District of Columbia to allow its policemen to form a union affiliated with any general labor organization, calls attention to a little noted action of the American Federation of Labor that may have the most far-reaching results. At its June meeting the federation decided to grant charters to unions of policemen. The policemen of twenty-one cities, it is reported, have already organized and affiliated themselves with the Federation.

The labor troubles in this state have grown worse. In Charlotte where the street cars had been tied up for two weeks, the recommendation of the mayor and committee of local business organizations for settlement of the trouble by recognition of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, the practice of the "open shop" principle, the submission of the wage question to arbitration, and immediate resumption of service, was accepted by the workers but declined by the Southern Public Utilities Company, which owns the street car lines. An attempt to resume operation by the use of strike-breakers precipitated a riot in which five men were killed and eleven others wounded. The bloodshed seems due to the incompetence of the police force. Someone in the crowd fired a pistol, so the report runs; the policemen answered with a volley. The union men charge that the strike breakers are professionals—thugs and gunmen—imported from outside the State. The city government called on the state for help, and several companies of state troops were sent. They have been patrolling the streets while armed strike-breakers have run a few practically empty cars short distances. As this is written, the city seems fairly quiet, and the troops are being withdrawn. No settlement of the dispute is in sight.

At Winston-Salem the street cars, owned by the same company, are still in the barns. No attempt has been made to introduce strike-breakers.

At High Point the furniture factories are still idle. The manufacturers declare they will never recognize the unions. Large numbers of idle workers are picketing the factories to prevent others from going to work. There has been no violence.

The President has declined to recommend the general increase in wages demanded by the railroad shophmen. Such an increase he told them, would tend to defeat the effort of the government to decrease the cost of living. The executive council of the railroad shop crafts have agreed to await the result of the government's campaign against the high cost of living for ninety days, before calling a strike. They are uncertain, however, whether they can control the various local unions. If the cost of living does not come down, it is not improbable that the entire 3,000,000 railroad employes of the country may strike for higher wages.

The Senate leaders seem more than ever determined to amend the peace treaty in several of its provisions. The President is starting on an extended tour of the country. He will lay the case before the people and ask their aid in securing the ratification of the treaty.

## NOTICE.

Be it remembered that a meeting of the commissioners of the town of Boone was held on the 4th day of August 1919, when and where were present I. G. Greer, M. B. Blackburn and F. A. Linney, commissioners and T. B. Moore, Mayor, when and where the following proceedings were had:

That petitions having been filed with the clerk asking for street improvements to be made by local assessments, to wit: asking that a sidewalk of concrete be constructed along the South side of King Street from Blackburn's property beginning at the branch, west of said property and continuing to the Baptist church, thence on the east side of the street leading from said church to L. L. Critcher's store passing to the east side of said store to the public school house lot; and on the North side of King Street from the east corner of the court house lot to the west corner of Dr. J. W. Jones' lot; and on east side of the street from King Street to the depot, and on south side of the street from King Street to the town limit at Dr. Bingham's, and the said petition further showing that the abutting property owners desired that the town pay for one half the cost of the said sidewalk construction and the property owners one half the cost thereof and the clerk having investigated the sufficiency of the said petition and the extent of the property affected thereby, and having submitted the same to the said commissioners, who find, First, that the said petition is sufficient; Second, that the said petition is signed by more than a majority in number of the owners of all the lineal feet of frontage of the land abutting upon the streets proposed to be improved;

Therefore be it resolved by the board of commissioners of the town of Boone that concrete sidewalks be constructed along the streets as above set forth according to the plans and specifications set forth by our engineer that the said walks be built on a four inch rock base, and from four to six feet wide, and that the work be done by contract under the supervision of our engineer, and that the town pay for one half of the cost of construction and that the abutting land owners be, and are hereby assessed one half of the cost thereof, the said assessment to be made out when the work is completed, as provided by law.

Be it further resolved that coupon bonds in the sum of five thousand dollars be issued by the said commissioner for the town of Boone and sold as the law directs to defray the said expense incurred by the said town in building the said sidewalks, and that said bonds bear a rate of interest not exceeding six per centum, per annum.

1. That the said bonds be issued in denominations of \$1,000.00 each and due and payable as follows: First bond payable Jan. 1, 1930 and one bond of one thousand dollars each year on Jan. 1 until the year 1935.
2. That a tax sufficient to pay the interest and to provide for a sinking fund be annually levied and collected.
3. That a statement of the present indebtedness of the town and the assessed valuation of the property subject to taxation by the municipality for the three fiscal years in which taxes were last levied, be filed with the board and sworn to by the treasurer of the town.
4. That the bond shall be a coupon bond, each in the sum of one thousand dollars, signed by the mayor of the said town and the secretary thereof, and sealed with the corporate seal thereof; the coupons to be signed by the mayor.
5. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage. Passed in regular meeting by a unanimous vote of the commissioners on this 4th day of August 1919.

F. A. LINNEY,  
M. B. BLACKBURN  
I. G. GREER  
Commissioners.

T. B. MOORE, Mayor.

The commissioner having let the contract for the building of said sidewalks, before sale of said bonds and it being necessary to borrow money for said work until said bonds are sold, the treasurer is directed and empowered to borrow an amount not exceeding \$4,000.00 for said work, for 30 days or longer if necessary, not exceeding 60 days from the Watauga County Bank or elsewhere and have the town's note executed therefor. On motion it is ordered by the board that a concrete culvert be constructed by our contractor across the street at the branch near the depot, and that the work be done according to the plans and specifications of our engineer and under his supervision. It is further ordered, on motion, that the work on the sidewalk begin at the branch west of Blackburn's on the south side of King Street.

It is further ordered on motion that the county teams be employed and the county work force be employed to do the grading on the streets and sidewalk at such places as the engineer may direct. That a rock culvert be constructed across the street at the branch below the jail and that said street be graded by the county road force, if it can be employed.

It is further ordered on motion that a copy of the resolution above set out be published in the Watauga Democrat for 30 days. On motion the meeting adjourned. This Aug. 4, 1919.

F. A. LINNEY,  
M. B. BLACKBURN  
I. G. GREER,

Com miss oners.

T. B. MOORE, Mayor.